

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 55

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH TO MAKE A
12 DISTRIBUTION FROM THE TRAIL SAFETY FUND TO CONTRACT FOR A STUDY
13 OF OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE USE IN NEW MEXICO AND THUS
14 ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRONG RURAL ECONOMIES
15 IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

16
17 WHEREAS, many of New Mexico's residents depend on off-
18 highway motor vehicles for ranching and farming, hunting and
19 access to public lands and for use of off-highway motor
20 vehicles for family recreation; and

21 WHEREAS, off-highway motor vehicles have become a
22 significant contributor to New Mexico's rural economies; and

23 WHEREAS, rural communities in New Mexico face economic
24 stress resulting from the national economic downturn; and

25 WHEREAS, in order for rural communities to survive, they

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1 need local economic development that allows residents to remain
2 in their small towns, sustain their way of life, earn an income
3 and support their families; and

4 WHEREAS, other states across the country are successfully
5 developing off-highway motor vehicle recreation to create and
6 enhance tourism and economic development in rural communities;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the neighboring states of Colorado and Arizona
9 have recognized the significance of off-highway motor vehicle
10 activity and have enacted legislation directing rigorous,
11 comprehensive studies of off-highway motor vehicle use in their
12 respective states; and

13 WHEREAS, the report directed by Senate Joint Memorial 40
14 of the second session of the forty-eighth legislature notes
15 that compliance with the requirements of Senate Joint Memorial
16 40 was not possible because time and funding were insufficient
17 to conduct a detailed study of the costs and benefits of off-
18 road vehicle recreation as compared to non-motorized recreation
19 and that there is no data specific to New Mexico off-highway
20 motor vehicle ownership and use patterns; and

21 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 379 of the first session of the
22 forty-ninth legislature authorizes the department of game and
23 fish to make a distribution from the trail safety fund for
24 information system development and management; and

25 WHEREAS, the legislature of the state of New Mexico

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1 desires to protect and encourage traditional rural lifestyles
2 and identify opportunities for improvement of rural economies;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of game and fish be
5 requested to make a distribution from the trail safety fund to
6 contract for a professional and scientifically sound study of
7 off-highway motor vehicle use in New Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be a statistically
9 valid survey of off-highway motor vehicle ownership and use;
10 identification of communities best suited for off-highway motor
11 vehicle tourism based on proximity to recreation opportunities,
12 local infrastructure and local desire for economic development;
13 and an assessment of potential economic benefits; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and
15 fish prepare and distribute a request for proposal pursuant to
16 the Procurement Code, including distribution to at least three
17 academic entities, for bid; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and
19 fish request for proposal direct the study authors to include
20 discussions of definitions and methodology enabling direct
21 comparison to studies produced by other states; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive study be
23 completed and delivered to the appropriate committee appointed
24 by the New Mexico legislative council by December 15, 2010; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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transmitted to the director of the department of game and fish.

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